



State of California

Gavin Newsom
Governor



California Environmental
Protection Agency

Jared Blumenfeld,
Secretary of the
Environment



State Water Resources
Control Board

E. Joaquin Esquivel,
Chair

Regional Water Quality
Control Board,
Central Valley Region

Karl Longley, Chair

Contact:

Ann Palmer

(916) 464-4825

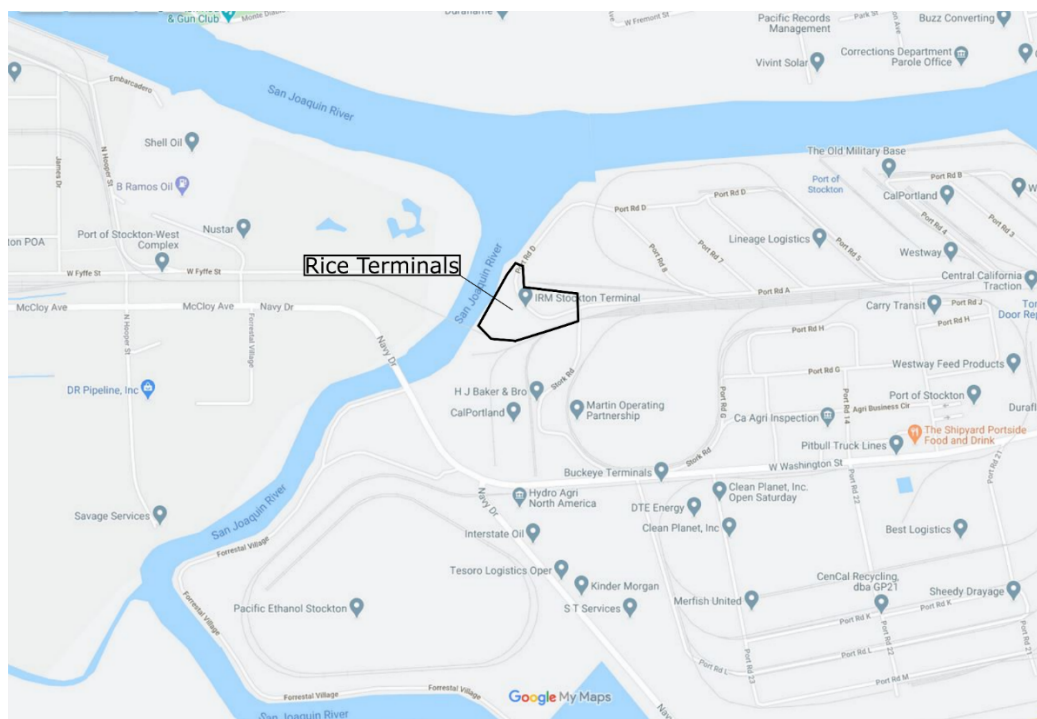
Regional Water Quality
Control Board,
Central Valley Region

Ann.Palmer@
waterboards.ca.gov

Public Notice: **Proposed No Further Action Determination**

Rice Terminals **Port of Stockton** **Stockton, San Joaquin County, CA**

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Board) invites public comments regarding the intent of the Board to grant regulatory closure to the Rice Terminals case at the Port of Stockton (Site). The Site currently houses six aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) historically used, for the storage of UAN-32 and CAN-17 ammonium nitrate fertilizer solution. The location of the Rice Terminals is illustrated below.



Initial assessment, conducted in 2004, found ammonia and nitrate in soil and groundwater above acceptable levels. Rice Terminals installed secondary containment to prevent additional spills from occurring, completed additional investigations in 2012 and 2015 and monitored wells quarterly from September 2017 through June 2018.

Investigation and monitoring reports show a drop in concentrations in groundwater and soil by several orders of magnitude between the initial 2005 site assessment and confirmation samples taken in

December 2019. Samples taken from 2005 to 2015 show a 94% reduction of total nitrogen (nitrate + ammonia) in soil, and 80 % reduction in groundwater.

Board staff agrees with ERS's assessment that natural bacteria in the area are contributing to biochemical degradation of nitrogen in soil and groundwater. Confirmation samples show groundwater concentrations of nitrate at 82 milligrams per liter (mg/L) in December 2019, above the Maximum Contaminant Level of 10 mg/L. However, due to continued natural degradation of nitrogen, these levels of nitrate are projected to drop to 10 mg/L by 2023. This represents a drop in nitrate concentrations to sufficient levels in an acceptable time frame.

Based on these data, BM Storage Corporation submitted a *Site Closure Request* in July 2020. Board staff reviewed the request for regulatory closure and believe there is merit to this request. As such, we are conducting a public participation comment period that allows interested parties to comment on the proposed case closure. After March 2, 2021, Board staff intends to complete its closure review process and issue a No Further Action determination for this site.

Public Comment Period: February 1, 2021 through March 2, 2021

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Reports and analytical results regarding the Site can be viewed by accessing the State Water Resources Control Board's GeoTracker website at:
https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=SL0607779456. Please contact Ann Palmer with the Central Valley Water Board if you have any comments/questions regarding environmental investigation or cleanup activities at the Site, or any of the information in this Public Notice:

Ann Palmer

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200

Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

(916) 464-4825

Ann.Palmer@waterboards.ca.gov

Notice to the Hearing Impaired

TDD users can obtain information about the Site by using the California State Relay Service (800) 735-2929 to reach the Public Participation Specialist. Ask them to contact the Central Valley Water Board at (916) 464-3291 regarding the proposed "No Further Action" determination for the Rice Terminals cleanup case.

Adviso

Si usted desea recibir el resumen de este documento en español o si desea hablar con un funcionario en español con respecto a este documento favor llame a la Junta Regional para el Control de Calidad de Agua del Valle Central al (916) 464-4690.